

Formal Session

10-8-19.

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

*Testimonial Resolution***Anthony White**
Detroit Youth Choir Director

- WHEREAS,** **Anthony White** is the talented and dedicated Artistic Director of the Detroit Youth Concert Choir and Performing Arts Company. Raised in Detroit, Michigan, and a proud graduate of St. Martin de Porres High School, **Anthony** found his love for music through performance opportunities in the city. He began his grind in the arts community as a member of the Boys Choir of Detroit, when it was a branch of the Boys Choir of Harlem. **Anthony's** passion for working with young people extends beyond the Detroit Youth Choir as he currently is employed as the Elementary District Choir Director of Oak Park, where he offers performing arts education to anyone who wishes to use it as a vehicle for success; **and**
- WHEREAS,** **Anthony** is a graduate of Marygrove College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music. While attending Marygrove College, **Anthony** performed in various productions such as *Ragtime*, *Godspell* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. He also performed in the "Soulful Expression Ensemble" where he was able to use his God-given talents of vocal music, music production, songwriting, music composition and theater; **and**
- WHEREAS,** **Anthony** became the director of the Detroit Youth Choir succeeding Fleming Ivory, who was the founder of the organization in 2001. **Anthony** and the Detroit Youth Choir have performed at various places in the U.S. and Canada. The organization was awarded the Mary McLeod Bethune Award and the DMC Community Service Award, and was nominated for the Gospel Showcase 2015 Youth Choir of the Year Award. The Detroit Youth Choir also won the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Award in 2018. **Anthony's** ability to lead young people to musical success has allowed the choir to receive the 313 Best in Black Detroit Award for "Best Community Choir of the Year" in 2018; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Under his leadership, the Detroit Youth Choir has performed on local television stations such as WDIV Local 4 News, WJBK Fox 2 News and the PBS program "Detroit Performs." The Detroit Youth Choir was given the opportunity to be a guest on the Ron Todd Radio Talk show, as well as the Be-Moor Radio Talk Show. Throughout his journey, doors continued to open. The Detroit Youth Choir was recently shown in the film documentary "America's Musical Journey" and performed at Aretha Franklin's memorial. In 2019, **Anthony** and his staff led the Detroit Youth Choir to the finals of America's Got Talent. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the **Detroit City Council** and the **Office of Council President Brenda Jones** hereby join with the Citizens of Detroit in honoring **Anthony White** for his dedication to enhancing the performing arts for young people in Detroit. Thank you for representing the City of Detroit with pride and enthusiasm on America's Got Talent and for always being a positive role model for our youth. May God continue to bless you and all that you do! You and the Detroit Youth Choir are **WINNERS!!!**

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM
Janiceé D. Johnson
COUNCIL MEMBER
Shawn B. B. B.
COUNCIL MEMBER
Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

Yusef Elam
COUNCIL MEMBER
Alvin B. B.
COUNCIL MEMBER
Archie J. B.
COUNCIL MEMBER
Shawn B. B.
COUNCIL MEMBER

October 1, 2019

DATE

In Memoriam

WHEREAS, We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, join the family and friends of **Mrs. Tessie Hill** in honoring her life and musical legacy. Detroit and the gospel music industry lost a legend when **Tessie Hill** made her heavenly transition. We pause to offer sincere condolences to her surviving five children, **Brenda Hill**, twins **Dr. Fairest Hill** and **Ferrell Hill-Richardson**, **Camelline Moore** and **Elder Reginald L. Hill**; three grandchildren who she raised as her own, **Nicole Hill**, **Tiffany Tomlin** and **Jermaine Hill**; and 10 other grandchildren. Three children and five siblings preceded her in death; and

WHEREAS, Tessie Hill was born on October 9, 1934, in Monroe, GA. At the age of eight, her family moved to Detroit, where she began singing in the choir at Polk Street Church of God in Christ. At an early age she married the late Elder Lonnie B. Hill, who founded The Original Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in 1960. The church choir, with **Tessie Hill** singing lead, was signed to Savoy Records in 1964. In 1975, **Tessie Hill** signed with Hobbs Record Label and recorded her first solo album, "Beams of Heaven." The following year she moved to Peacock Records, now known as ABC Records. There **Tessie Hill** was a trailblazer because she recorded several gospel albums that were considered contemporary for gospel music. Several hits came from her recordings produced by Eddie Robinson and Sylvia Moy -- songs like, "I Must Tell Jesus," "Don't Forget to Remember," "Leave It in the Hands of the Lord," and others. But the song "Great Things," from the self-titled album, "**Tessie Hill**," that was added just to fill space, would become the biggest and most noteworthy song of her career; and

WHEREAS, The song, "*Great Things*," earned **Tessie Hill** national recognition, as the song helped open the door for Contemporary Gospel music. And, she was one of the first gospel artists to be played on secular radio. "*Great Things*," crossed over into areas of popular music, propelling **Tessie Hill's** music sales and earning her a Gold Album and "Artist of the Year Award" by *Record World* magazine. In 1978, *Record World* magazine named **Tessie Hill** its "*Top Female Gospel Artist*"; and

WHEREAS, She shifted her life's focus in 1981 due to her husband's cancer diagnosis and subsequent death in 1983. But, a few years later, **Tessie Hill** pursued recording again only to find that the music industry's taste in gospel music had changed and now catered to songs that did not include God's name. However, her ministry, built on the foundation and principle of God's promises, would not be compromised. In 1991 and 1997, **Tessie Hill** faced her own major health challenges. But her faith remained strong, God showed up, and she was healed. In 1998, **Tessie Hill's** producer, **Eddie Robinson**, called her to work on a new project and they picked up right where they left off many years before. In 2006, she recorded the appropriately-named CD, "*It's Me Again.*" In 2010 she released "*Stepping Out.*" And, in 2017, **Tessie Hill** recorded a song with her son, Dr. Fairest Hill; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, **Tessie Hill** was known for fashion that was just as bold as her voice. When asked about her style, she once said, "I want to look like I sound." She also said, "I won't retire. When God calls me and says, 'Well done,' that's when it will be over, and then I'll probably be up there singing with the angels." And, on July 28, 2019, God said, "Well done, **Tessie Hill**, come sing with the angels." **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the **Detroit City Council** and office of Council President **Brenda Jones**, join with family and friends in honoring the life and musical legacy of **Mrs. Tessie Hill**. Her songs will live on forever!

Mary Sheffield Brenda Jones
 COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM COUNCIL PRESIDENT
 Gabe O. Jones
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Ron B. [Signature]
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Raquel Castañeda-Lopez
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Gabe O. Jones
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Ron B. [Signature]
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Raquel Castañeda-Lopez
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Gabe O. Jones
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Ron B. [Signature]
 COUNCIL MEMBER
 Raquel Castañeda-Lopez
 COUNCIL MEMBER

October 1, 2019

DATE _____

RESOLUTION

In Memoriam

MR. EMMITT LEWIS

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- WHEREAS,** We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, join the family and friends of **MR. EMMITT LEWIS**, in honoring his life and legacy. **MR. LEWIS** made his heavenly transition on September 18, 2019, after a life well-lived; **and**
- WHEREAS,** **EMMITT LEWIS** was born on April 20, 1931 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, to the late Leola and Jessie Lewis. He was the third of four children, which included his loving sister, Florence Young (Albert) and two brothers, A.J. Lewis and Jodie Lewis (both preceded him in death). **EMMITT** was baptized at an early age at Mount Way Baptist Church and later as an adult re-affirmed his faith at Salt Mine Church, under the leadership of Pastor Alahundro Reese; **and**
- WHEREAS,** **EMMITT** graduated from Lanier High School in 1949. Shortly thereafter, he relocated to Detroit to seek employment. After working at Chrysler Corporation for about one-year, **EMMITT** was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Korea and fought in the Korean War until it ended. Following his military service, he returned to Detroit and resumed working for Chrysler. He started in production, but found his calling in the United Auto Workers (UAW) union. **EMMITT** was elected as chief steward, committeeman and shop chairman. He often bragged to his closest friends and family that he had never lost an election in 30 years. **EMMITT** retired from Chrysler after 54 years; **and**
- WHEREAS,** In 1959, **EMMITT** was united in marriage to Veanita Battle (preceded him in death). To this union four children were born: Sandra Lewis, Belinda Lewis Burkes, Brenda Watson (Carey) and Emmitt Lewis Jr. Their blended family included his stepchildren: Samantha, Emmanuel, Manulita and Monique (preceded him in death). Then, **EMMITT** joined with Kay Rice and they had two children: Desmond Rice (Jacquelynn) and Dana Rice, and his stepchildren: Kenneth Rice and Kristie Rice; **and**
- WHEREAS,** **EMMITT** lived life to the fullest. He was known as a friendly, affectionate person who never met a stranger and always had a kind word or smile. **EMMITT** enjoyed his leisure activities of reading the newspapers while drinking coffee, watching or listening to sports, and discussing the latest politics and union issues. **MR. EMMITT LEWIS** leaves to mourn and cherish his memory, six children; five stepchildren; sixteen grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; his beloved sister; his close friend Chandra and her daughter Chanice, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. **MR. EMMITT LEWIS** will be greatly missed, and his contributions and lessons taught will live on forever. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the **Detroit City Council** and **Council President Brenda Jones**, join with family and friends in honoring the life of **MR. EMMITT LEWIS**.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Jim L. L...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Be...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Torres
COUNCIL MEMBER

Debra L...
COUNCIL MEMBER

...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre J. Spring
COUNCIL MEMBER

James Tate
COUNCIL MEMBER

September 27, 2019

DATE